

Remarks

This amendment is in response to the Final Office Action dated August 14, 2006. It is believed that this amendment places the case into condition for allowance. Claims 9, 34, and 38 have been amended. Claims 1-8, 15-33, and 39-42 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 9-14 and 34-38 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Applicant has amended claims 9 and 38 to address the informalities noted by the Examiner.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the claims 9-14 and 38 are allowed.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 34-37 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has rewritten claim 34 in independent form. Claims 35-37 depend from claim 34.

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 15 and 30-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Ananth et al. (US 5,708,540) in view of Tsukamoto (US 5,781,376). Claim 4 was rejected over Ananth and Tsukamoto and Carr et al. (US 5,761,790). Applicant does not agree with the rejections. However, to expedite prosecution and place the case into condition for allowance, applicant has canceled the rejected claims without prejudice to further prosecute these claims.

Any of the Examiner's comments not specifically discussed above are deemed moot at this time in view of this response.

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. If, for any reason, the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to discuss the steps necessary to place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Alan S. Raynes November 14, 2006

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